

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals
Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every
Day for the Evening Telegraph.

OUR ANNUAL SPRING TRADE.

From the Chicago Tribune.

As the time approaches for the opening of the spring trade, it is natural for our mercantile community to feel some solicitude in regard to the prospects for a profitable season's business. From present appearances we can see no reason to doubt that trade will be as good during the coming spring as it has been in past seasons; nor is there wanting in the signs of the times encouragement to hope that the volume of business may be increased rather than diminished. The transactions of the past year have been on the whole profitable and satisfactory to our jobbers. It is true collections have at times been slow, but as the time draws near for interior dealers to procure their supplies for the coming demand for spring goods, they are making successful exertions to pay off arrears, and jobbers in all lines are accordingly in excellent spirit. Extensive preparations are being made on all hands. New and more commodious locations have been sought, large invoices of goods are daily arriving, and already the market is assuming an aspect of activity. It must be expected that, as values gradually decline, the seasons of trade will become more regular. They will be much shorter and more active; while the leisure seasons will, of course, be longer and duller. When the dull season is prolonged beyond the usual time, the nervous operators will weaken and crumk, but we repeat that this state of trade may be expected until gold shall have been reduced to par, and all values shall proportionally decline. There can be no reason to apprehend a decline in our trade. The population of the Northwest is increasing rapidly; her resources are being developed, and the demand for goods cannot grow less, but must of necessity become greater from year to year. In supplying this increasing demand, Chicago has nowhere in the West a successful competitor. Her facilities are unsurpassed, and she must inevitably continue to distribute her wares in the future as she has done in the past. The country merchant obtains his goods in this market at precisely the same figures they are sold in Eastern markets, the trade discount only differing in the amount of four per cent., which will scarcely pay freight, and other expenses incurred in procuring them from those markets. Even this stumbling block to the trade is gradually being removed, and many of our jobbers are now giving the same terms offered East. Taking it all together, we ought to have, and the prospects are that we shall have, a heavy and remunerative spring trade. Let our jobbers go on moving, whitewashing, and stocking up with fresh bright fabrics, and we believe a prosperous spring's trade will surely follow.

HOW SPAIN RULES THE UNITED STATES.

From the N. Y. Sun.

Our adventures from Key West would seem to intimate that the State of Florida either has already been, or is about to be, returned to Spain.

We have before us the manifesto of certain Cubans who, with their families, had sought refuge at Key West from the lawless atrocities of the Havana volunteers. The action of the authorities of that place, however, on the death and funeral of Castaneda, would imply that Spanish dominion had been re-established on this side of the straits. The body of this man, who had instigated, applauded, and abetted every act of barbarity of the Havana volunteers, from the massacres of helpless women and children at Villanueva, to the late indiscriminate shooting of prisoners and intended extermination of every Cuban from his native soil—this man, who had, in utter scorn of our laws, come over from Havana, not to fight a duel (for he caused himself to be arrested), but to endeavor, by instilling a poor, feeble old man, to regain a little of the importance he had lost in Havana—this man's body is escorted to the vessel carrying him to Cuba by United States troops, with arms reversed, and accompanied by the Federal and municipal authorities of the place.

The persecution of the Cubans at Key West since this occurrence has been in every sense as relentless as that meted out to them in Cuba. Several of these Cubans have been arrested on the most frivolous charges, and, having been refused, are doomed to long imprisonment. The man who shot Castaneda is known to have escaped.

But the climax was capped on Wednesday. The telegram in which the formal occupation of American territory by Spain is announced is addressed to Don Jose Morales Lemus, the representative of the Cuban republic in this country, and reads as follows:—

"Key West, Feb. 22.—Martinez Ybor's cigar factory was closed yesterday, on the demand of the Havana volunteers."

This man Ybor was a cigar manufacturer of Havana, who, finding himself short of hands there, on account of the great number of his employees who had been forced to leave the island for their political opinions, followed them to Key West and opened a cigar manufactory there, employing upwards of 240 Cubans in his establishment.

Has Congress ever authorized the surrender of Florida to Spain? Or was the demand of the Havana volunteers for the banishment of a resident of the United States backed by the presence of a Spanish squadron?

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

We congratulate Miss Anthony upon two important steps towards the release of woman from her state of bondage, one of which was recently taken in England, and the other in America. Both relate to the prerogatives which man has most jealously kept to himself—in the one case the ballot, and in the other tobacco; and if the results have not yet been all that we could wish, the mere fact that the women, as Mrs. Chick used to say, have "made an effort," is in itself encouraging. Respecting tobacco, the Genius of Liberty came in the shape of a British shop-keeper, who used a deserted husband for the value of a cigar-case and tobacco-pouch furnished to his runaway wife, and the argument of the plaintiff's counsel was that these articles might be reckoned among the "necessaries" of a lady which the husband was bound to pay for. It will gratify Miss Anthony to learn that a British jury concurred in this liberal opinion; and though a new trial has been ordered by the more conservative Judge of a higher court, the effort has been made, and the rights of woman to her Killickinick and Partagas asserted in the face of the law. In the matter of the ballot, triumph and disappointment are likewise mingled. In the Territory of Utah woman has at last achieved

the right to vote, and it is in the city of the Great Salt Lake that she has first been permitted to exercise the prerogative of a free woman. That this victory should have been achieved in the very place where her subjection is most degrading, and the possession of such a weapon most formidable to her oppressors, is indeed a triumph. The only drawback to this now she has the weapon she won't use it, or at most she fights on the wrong side. Only six women came to the polls, and five out of the six seem to have voted for slavery. This beats the Pawtucket eagle which refused to fly away after Mr. Dorney had paid \$20 to a fire company for its freedom and brought a pool and a band of music to celebrate the ceremony of liberation. But courage, ladies! The good cause goes on. One of these days, maybe, you will discover your own unhappiness; and then the ballot and liberty, trousers and tobacco pouches, will soon follow.

THE SLAUGHTER OF THE PIEGANS.

From the N. Y. Times.

When Ouster, last year, moved against Black Kettle and the Cheyennes, destroying the camp of that starving band with great slaughter, we defended and applauded the affair, because the offense had been greater even than the penalty. When Carr and his cavalry made his famous raid soon after, killing, capturing, and scattering hostile savages, we praised it, because the gang attacked were a plundering, murderous lot, who deserved all the chastisement that could well be inflicted. But the slaughter of the Piegans in Montana is a more serious and a more shocking affair than the sacking of Black Kettle's camp on the Washita. We do not deny that the band which Colonel Baker annihilated had been guilty of crimes, but the whole massacre of men, women, and children seems to have been a different affair from the surprise of Ouster, and really an atrocious one.

Mr. Vincent Collier's letter of the 23d to Mr. Brimot is dated from the Board of Indian Commissioners, Department of the Interior, and hence acquires a semi-official and even Governmental sanction; and that letter represents the attack on the Piegan village in Montana to have been simply a sickening slaughter. No other terms will properly qualify it; no redeeming merit attaches to it. A month ago, in the dead of winter, a great force of well-armed, well-mounted troops surrounded and surprised an Indian village, which was at once and perforce within their power. Did this force of our troops call for a surrender? Did they give any quarter? Mr. Vincent Collier tells us that they did not, and that, on the contrary, though the savages numbered far less than our troops, the latter began and continued butchery until one hundred and seventy-three persons were killed.

What that "butchery" was may be known from the fact that, according to General Sherman's report, our only loss was one man "injured in falling from his horse." But of the Indians 173 paid the forfeit of their lives. And this is not all. Mr. Collier tells us that of these 173 only fifteen were soldiers, or men between 19 and 27 years old, while the rest were women, children, and the aged. At any rate only twenty-five were between the outside fighting ages of 12 and 60. Besides these, there were eight men killed over 60. Take these altogether, and we have a conceivable resisting strength of just thirty-three.

What of the other 140? Of these ninety were women, more than half over forty years of age; and the other fifty were children—all killed in "one fell swoop." "Many of the children," says Mr. Collier, "were in their parents' arms," and all were under twelve years of age. Can we call the killing of 173 people, of whom 140 were women, children, and the aged, anything but a sickening slaughter?

We do not desire to wander into mere sentimentality in this matter, but here are the horrible official facts. They are derived from Lieutenant W. B. Pease, an officer of the army, and agent of the Blackfeet, of whom, according to our remembrance, the Piegans are a sub-tribe, and they are indorsed or attested by General Sully, a well-known Indian fighter and negotiator in our army. Are not the facts sufficiently shocking to demand an inquiry by Congress? We admit that, during the past year, the Piegans have committed many outrages, and have rendered themselves liable to be punished; but so long ago as the 23d of December, General Parker, the Indian Commissioner, declared that "the Montana danger of a serious outbreak, it is believed, is past." The question is whether a wholesale slaughter of women and children was needed for the vindication of our arms; and whether capture, as in the cases of Ouster and Carr, would not have accomplished all needful purposes.

THE RING MILLSTONE.

From the N. Y. World.

The allies of the ring are chorusing that this war upon them is a fight of factions, nothing more; that Democrats of the State must keep out of it, and that Democrats of the Union must wash their hands of it.

Again we repeat that we who are fighting the ring deserve the moral sympathy of every Democrat in the State, and are entitled to the sustaining votes of every representative of the Democracy of the State. The reasons why, we shall endeavor to present before the votes of the Senate and Assembly are called for upon any affirmative measure. These thieves of the ring not only have dishonored the party by their corruption; not only have betrayed it by complicity with radical misrule; but they have also treacherously assaulted its leading men throughout the State, assailed the official heads of its organization, State and national, and defrauded of his rightful majority the party's candidate in a Presidential election.

Logic and State reasons for casting off the ring millstone are more numerous than the greenbacks in their coffers. But the fight has still a wider horizon; and so commands the interest and the sympathy of every honest Democrat throughout the Union. Let the ring keep rule here, we have already said, and New York State is lost to the Democracy next fall; the Union is lost in 1873; and all the hopes perish of its speedy redemption from radical misrule, from a tariff law, for example, three lines in which rob the people of the United States of twice as much as the grand sum total of all the annual taxes of the city and county of New York—the ring's place.

Let an Illinois Democrat show one of the widening ripples from the corruption which centres here. New York is a city set on a hill. Neither its light nor its darkness can be hid. If its light be darkness, that is defeat to the Democracy of the Union; if its light be light indeed, that is life and vigor to the Democracy of the Union.

"To the Editor of the World:—"

"To show you how the shameful character of your city government and some of your courts affects the Democratic party all through the country, you have only to read the speech, at Springfield last fall, of our Governor, General Palmer. He admitted the gross corruption of the Republicans in this State; he was wholly unable to defend them; but he answered our complaint of them by pointing to the city of New York."

"Look," said he, "at the Democratic city of New

York, where all that is necessary for the Democratic managers to do is to draw their order for the majority which they require, and it is always honored. Take that, and there is not such a misgoverned, corrupted, and wronged community on earth. Even there the people are beginning to rebel against that despotism of thieves and robbers. Who her this is exaggerated or not, you can see what we Democrats of the West have to meet."

"A WESTERN DEMOCRAT."

Against such arguments, how shall we effectually contend? A minority, we need converts to make a majority. How shall the Democracy persuade good men, hitherto their opponents, but now agreeing with them upon every issue of the future, to join the company or the party of the thieves of the ring? We may point to the widespread corruptions of Washington; their old leaders point them, as General, now Governor, John M. Palmer, of Illinois, successfully pointed them—to the concentrated corruptions of the New York city ring.

What answer? The answer of honest Democrats—this corrupt ring must be destroyed. The answer of patriotic Democrats—this fatal ring must be destroyed.

THE FIRST BRITISH PEER IN BANKRUPTCY.

From the N. Y. Herald.

"Bankrupts—to surrender at Basinghall street—Henry Pelham Alexander Pelham Clinton, Duke of Newcastle, Carlton House terrace and Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, March 16, at eleven." The exact meaning of the above extract, taken from the columns of the London *Gazette* by our special correspondent in that city, is that his Grace the Duke of Newcastle was declared a bankrupt, and made to "surrender" to the law and to place the record of his fact that he could not, or would not, pay his creditors, and how and what amounts are due to them. He is allowed to the 16th day of March to do it—no longer. The first British peer in bankruptcy! It appears an unenviable distinction, but constitutes a really important event in English history. Hitherto a peer could not be legally declared a bankrupt. The order of aristocracy stood firm on its privilege. British law has now stepped in in its majesty, and decided that his Grace of Newcastle may be adjudicated a bankrupt, his barony, titles, and so forth, to the contrary notwithstanding.

The event becomes thus of great importance, standing out, as it will, as a prominent landmark of the progress of the European democracy towards a complete triumph over feudalism and the law of primogeniture. When the great Norman William "flashed his conquering spears" from his native vineyards to Britain, William de Villa Tancered served as chamberlain in the royal train. From him, as is claimed, came John de Clinton, a baron of the Parliament in the year 1299, and thence his Grace the present Duke of Newcastle. It is an ancient and distinguished lineage, great in wars, gallant in love and famous in legislation and politics. Society, as at present constituted, will be more benefited, however, by the triumph of the London tipstaff over the coronet to-day than ever were the peoples hitherto by all the tilts and jousts and sword-strokes and revels and routs of the forefathers of the Duke. The democracy of England can wait patiently, but they always win in the end.

The Duke of Newcastle having obtained a clean certificate of bankruptcy, no suspicion attaching it will stand in a new yet significant position. He will, perhaps, be debarred from the aristocratic clubs, and thus be made eligible for membership in the Manchester Radical Reform Association. Here he can come out as an Englishman—a peer among his peers—and to the lead. He would thus be able to temper the violence of Broadhead and the rest, advance the Democratic cohorts to measures of salutary reform, become the Louis Philippe *egalite* of British revolutionism, and so perhaps distance the Prince of Wales in a Presidential canvass for votes.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of CHARLES J. WOLBERT, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that ELIZA WOLBERT, the widow of said deceased, has filed her petition with inventory and appraisal of personal property elected to be retained by her under act of April 14, 1861, and its supplementary acts, and that the same will be allowed by the Court, Saturday, March 5, 1870, unless exceptions be filed thereto.

EDWARD J. McGOUGHAN,

Attorney for Petitioner.

218 tmt

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of SAMUEL WALKER, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that SAMUEL WALKER, the widow of said deceased, has filed her petition with inventory and appraisal of personal property elected to be retained by her under act of April 14, 1861, and its supplementary acts, and that the same will be allowed by the Court, Saturday, March 5, 1870, unless exceptions be filed thereto.

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